

Serial No. 10/566,960
Examiner Joseph S. Leyson
Group Art Unit 1722

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are now pending. Claims 1, 11 and 20 are the only independent claims. Claims 1, 5, 6 and 9 have been amended herein. New Claims 11-23 have been added herein. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claim 6 was rejected under U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite and lacking antecedent basis. Claim 6 has been amended per the Examiner's suggestion, making this rejection moot.

Rejection of Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over (1) Bessemer et al. (US 6,620,354) in view of (2) Racioppi et al. (US 5,780,071), (3) Gatto (US 3,538,210) and (4) Dorninger (US 5,505,058).

Claims 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bessemer in view of Racioppi, Gatto and Dorninger as applied to Claims 1-6 and 9, and further in view of Kossi (US Publication US 2003/0219503).

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bessemer in view of Racioppi, Gatto and Dorninger as applied to Claims 1-6 and 9, and further in view of Grassi (US 6,394,782).

In light of the foregoing claim amendments and the following comments, each of these rejections is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Applicants submit that features of the present invention include a water collection plate having an internal cavity for the profile and cooling water to pass therethrough so as to cool the profile (as recited in newly-added independent Claim 20). In at least one embodiment, the internal cavity has a shape similar to that of the profile with a dimension larger than that of the profile so that a gap is formed between the internal cavity and the profile, whereby the profile is cooled homogeneously (as recited in each of independent Claims 1 (as amended herein) and 11). And in at least one embodiment, each of the molding blocks is provided with one or more water passages near its periphery so that water flows in a periphery - inner circle - periphery pattern (as recited in amended independent Claim 1).

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Applicants submit that none of the cited references teaches or suggests the above features.

In addition, Applicant again respectfully disagrees with Examiner's interpretation of Bessemer and in particular, the analysis of the Examiner that the walls between the cooling chambers illustrated in Fig. 9 of Bessemer et al (US Patent No. 6,620,354) correspond (or teach or suggest) the water collection plates of the present invention. In particular, Applicants again submit that Bessemer *does not teach* that the openings 543, 546, 549, 552 in each wall *allows cooling water to pass through* so as to cool the extrudate. Moreover, Bessemer does not teach that the internal cavity of a water collection plate has a similar shape to that of the extrudate so as to form a uniformed gap between the internal cavity and the profile to allow the cooling water to pass therethrough and to cool the profile homogeneously.

Reconsideration of the claims as amended herein is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order to resolve any outstanding issues.

FEES

The Office is authorized to charge any fees required to deposit account number 50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,



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